

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01 /087 W

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P R 221103Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7217

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT. PO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) LISBON 3422 (DTG 211318Z MAY 76) (B) LISBON DAO 201615Z  
MAY 76 IR 6 879 0301 76

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HAS SAID AGAIN THAT HE WILL NOT  
RUN. HIS SUPPORTERS, HOWEVER, CLAIM THE SITUATION IS STILL NOT  
DEFINED. PRESENCE OF A PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER IN ANGOLA  
IS BEING INTERPRETED BY COSTA GOMES OPPONENTS AS A TACTIC TO  
BOOST THE COMMUNISTS AND THE PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

1. COSTA GOMES: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TOLD THE PRESS AGAIN  
MAY 21 THAT HE WOULD NOT BE A CANDIDATE. HE SAID THE SAME THING  
PRIVATELY TO "LUTA" EDITOR RAUL REGO. THE COSTA GOMES FOR  
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PRESIDENT COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, AFTER A MEETING WITH HIM ON MAY 21

SAID THE SITUATION WAS STILL NOT DEFINED (REF A).

2. COMMUNIST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER SERGIO VILARIGUES IS IN ANGOLA TO DEAL WITH "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MPLA AND THE PCP." THE ANGOLAN NEWS AGENCY NOTED THAT THE MPLA CONTINUES TO MAKE A "DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AND A GOVERNMENT SOLD OUT TO IMPERIALIST INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS." THOSE WHO OPPOSE COSTA GOMES VIEW THE PCP MANEUVER AS AN ATTEMPT NOT ONLY TO PRESENT THE PCP AS THE ONLY VIABLE INTERMEDIARY WITH THE EX-COLONY, BUT ALSO TO BOOST THE CANDIDACY OF COSTA GOMES AS THE MAN WHO CAN SOLVE THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM. COSTA GOMES PARTISANS POINT OUT THAT HE SUPPORTED EARLY RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA REGIME AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

3. EANES TO AZORES AND MADEIRA: EANES DEPARTED MAY 21 FOR A "STRICTLY MILITARY" VISIT TO THE AZORES AND MADEIRA (REF B). ON ARRIVAL HE DECLARED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF AUTONOMY BUT AGAINST SEPARATION. COMMENTING ON THE ANGOLAN SITUATION HE NOTED THAT PORTUGAL "WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN ANGOLA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND WOULD NOT PERMIT ANGOLA TO INTERFERE IN PORTUGAL'S".

4. CAMPAIGN FINANCING: CANDIDATES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO SPEND MORE THAN 83 THOUSAND DOLLARS ON THEIR CAMPAIGN. EANES SUPPORTERS CLAIM THAT HIS CAMPAIGN IS BEING SUPPORTED FROM VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND HIS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS AND FACILITIES ARE BEING "DONATED FOR FREE". EANES SUPPORTERS EXPECT TO PUT OUT 500 THOUSAND COPIES OF TWO CAMPAIGN POSTERS. AZEVEDO HAS PUT OUT A 300 THOUSAND COPIES OF A CAMPAIGN PAMPHLET. NO INFORMATION HAS BEEN RELEASED YET FROM THE AZEVEDO CAMP ON FINANCING.

5. COMMENT: EANES IS EXPECTED TO HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH FINANCING HIS CAMPAIGN BECAUSE OF THE MONEY AVAILABLE FROM THE PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE SOCIALISTS. AZEVEDO'S SOURCE OF FUNDS REMAINS UNKNOWN, EVEN TO POLITICAL INSIDERS. HOWEVER, CAMPAIGN EXPENSES ARE RELATIVELY LOW BECAUSE OF THE CANDIDATES RIGHT TO FREE TELEVISION AND RADIO TIME, AND THE PROHIBITION ON PAID ADVERTISING. THE PRIME MINISTER SEES TV AS HIS BEST CAMPAIGN TOOL.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (GOMES, COSTA)  
**To:** STATE  
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